

BACKGROUND BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
GALE A. BUCHANAN

Gale A. Buchanan was born in Madison County, Florida, where he spent his first 18 years on a general farm that produced crops and livestock. He received the B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agronomy from the University of Florida and the Ph.D. in Plant Physiology from Iowa State University.

Dr. Buchanan spent the first 21 years of his professional career with Auburn University. The first 16 years were spent as a professor in the Department of Agronomy and Soils with teaching and research responsibilities in weed science. He then served as Dean and Director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station from 1980 to 1985.

On April 14, 1986, he was appointed Associate Director of the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations and Resident Director of the Coastal Plain Experiment Station in Tifton. In 1994 he served briefly as Director of the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations. He was appointed Dean and Director of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences March 1, 1995. He relinquished the position of Dean and Director on December 31, 2004.

He then served as a professor at the National Environmental Sound Production Agriculture Laboratory in Tifton, Georgia until his retirement from UGA in April 30, 2005. He served on the Board of Directors of the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition and the Georgia Agrirama Foundation Board (Georgia's Museum of Agriculture) until 2006.

In 2005, he was nominated by President Bush to serve as Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He was confirmed for this position by the United States Senate on May 2006. With the passage of the 2008 Farm Bill, he assumed the responsibility of USDA Chief Scientist along with that of Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics. He served in this capacity until January 20, 2009.

After retiring from the University of Georgia and completing the appointment as Chief Scientist and Under Secretary in the USDA, he remained active in several academic areas. This included serving as senior author on a Council for Agricultural Science & Technology (CAST) Issue Paper No. 45 entitled, "Agricultural Productivity Strategies for the Future: Addressing U.S. and Global Challenges." For the past two years, he has served as Chair of the CAST Board of Trustees. He has also served as Co-chair for the Research Section of Solutions from the Land that is being sponsored by the United Nations Foundation, Conservation International, the Nature Conservancy and the Farm Foundation. This is an effort to develop integrated solutions to achieve global food and energy security while giving consideration for biodiversity conservation, deforestation, climate change, economic security and sustainable development. He has also given a number of lectures at various university, industry, commodity and trade venues. Working with three colleagues he has co-authored a book entitled, "Leadership in Agriculture: Case Studies for a New Generation" to be published by Texas A&M University Press in early 2013. He is currently working on a book tentatively titled, "Agricultural Research – the Only Hope for Civilization.

Currently he serves as Dean and Director Emeritus, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia, Tifton Campus, Tifton, Georgia.

After 32 years of service, he retired from the U.S. Army National Guard, with the federally recognized rank of Colonel (O-6).